

REMARKS

A corrected version of Fig. 2 is submitted.

Claims 1, 5-10, 12, 14, 15 and 17-21 are of record. The allowability of claims 6, 8, 10, 15 and 17 is noted. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 18-21 are considered to be allowable upon correction of various objections and §112 rejections.

The rejected claims have been amended to overcome the noted objections and §112 rejections. These amendments are discussed using the same paragraph numbers as in the Office Action, but in somewhat different order.

4. Claim 7 has been canceled.

7.-8. Claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 14 and 18-21.

In claim 1, the term "a material" has been replaced by "the second material".

Claims 1, 18 and 21 - claim 1 is discussed above. As to claim 18, as recited in line 12 of claim 18, the substrate is formed of a composite of aluminum and ceramic. The phrase "a material" recited in the last line of claim 18 is replaced by the phrase "the composite of aluminum and ceramic". Similarly, the phrase "a material" recited in line 18 of claim 20 and in line 18 of claim 21 has been replaced with the phrase "the composite of aluminum and ceramic".

9. Claims 20 and 21. The numerical range has been deleted. It is recited that the coefficient of expansion of each of the recited elements is approximately the same. There is further discussion of claims 20 and 21 below.

In the following discussion the terms below are as follows:

"old" claim — claim present in the amendment dated June 2, 2003;

"present" claim — claim present in the amendment dated September 3, 2003;

"new" claim — presented herein.

Page 8, line 3 of the REMARKS submitted in the December 3, 2003 amendment stated that "claim 17 [old claim] has been rewritten as new independent claim 21 [present claim]".

Therefore, referring to the September 3, 2003 amendment, present claim 21 should have included the subject matter recited in old claims 6, 15 and 17. However, present claim 21 also inadvertently included the subject matter of the old claim 16. This was incorrect because old claim 16 should not be dependent on old claim 12, but should have been dependent on old claim 15. In addition, as described in item 9. above in response to the current Office Action, the last paragraph of present claim 21, which corresponds to old claim 16, should be deleted.

Thus, a correct version of claim 21 should include the subject matter recited only in old claims 6, 15, and 17. New claim 21 presents this. Moreover, present claim 17 also includes the subject matter recited in old claims 6, 15 and 17 in the same manner as new claim 21. Since claim 17 is basically redundant, it has been canceled without prejudice.

Also, referring to the current Office Action:

3. Claim 21. The Examiner indicates that "the material forming the substrate" lacks antecedent basis. In this connection, claim 18 recites the feature relating to this phrase using an expression different from that of claim 21, and claim 18 is not objected to by the Examiner. Therefore, new claim 21 is amended to use the language of claim 18.

5.-6. Claim 20. The phrase "and aluminum and ceramic" recited in lines 14-15 of Claim 20 that is objected to, is deleted. Line 12 of new claim 20 is presented in the same manner as the recitation in line 12 of claim 18.

Also, there is an error in present claim 20, which is to be composed of the subject matter recited in old claims 1, 12, 13 and 14. However, as described in response to Paragraph 6. above of the current Office Action, the last paragraph of present claim 20, which is identical to the subject matter of old claim 13, should be deleted. Thus, new claim 20 should include the subject matter recited in old claims 1, 12 and 14. New claim 20 is presents this in this amendment.

Present claim 19 includes the subject matter recited in old claims 1, 4 and 12. The subject matter recited in old claim 4 is identical to that of old claim 14. That is, new claim 20 includes the same subject matter as recited in present claim 19. Therefore, claim 19 is canceled without prejudice.

It is submitted that the above overcomes the objections and §112 rejection of the claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Prompt and favorable action is requested.

Dated: April 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments